

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED
TO THE 1978
ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE
OF THE CALIFORNIA ACADEMY
OF SCIENCES

Wednesday evening, October 25
6 to 8:30 p.m.

This is your night to explore not only the public areas of the museum, but take a look "backstage" at the inner workings of the Academy's research departments, the Steinhart Aquarium and Morrison Planetarium. Maps and programs will be available for your use and members of the Docent Council will be on hand to aid and assist. Refreshments will be served and your guests are more than welcome!

Your membership card is your admission through the main entrance at Cowell. If you bring a guest, please have ready a completed guest ticket usually used at the monthly meetings.

Special Exhibits

Two New Exhibits Open This Month!

The rivers of California's Mother Lode country are old friends to many of us, friends which find themselves the focus of the on-going political questions, to dam or not to dam?

Condemned Rivers of the Mother Lode is a new exhibit opening October 4, which, despite the pessimistic title, gives you the uncluttered facts concerning the history, cost and impact of nine proposed dam projects in northern California and explores such questions as, will dams help in a drought? What environmental changes would occur by damming? Will a dam benefit the people who live nearby, or will the water source simply bring an influx of newcomers to the area? Could another Teton disaster happen in California? Through historic and contemporary photographs, and informational labels, you can make your own decisions about the fate of these California rivers. This exhibit was organized by Friends of the River, a non-profit organization, and continues in Hohfeld Gallery II indefinitely.

Resident of the Farallones: Tufted Puffin



Approximately 30 miles outside the Golden Gate lie the Farallones, a group of seven rocky peaks usually hidden from view by a thick veil of fog. The stormy islands with an equally stormy history were first mentioned in the ship's log of Sir Francis Drake who stopped at the Farallones to stock his depleted provisions with seal meat and sea bird eggs. It was not, however, until the 1800's that man's meddling was keenly felt when first the Russians and later Americans raided the islands in search of valuable fur seals.

In 1850 the Farallon Egg Company was formed and for more than 50 years eggers made regular trips to the Farallones to col-

lect sea bird eggs which were sold in San Francisco for \$1.00 per dozen. Old records show that between 1850 and 1856 between three and four **million** eggs were sold to the hungry mainland population.

In 1909 President Teddy Roosevelt set aside part of the island group as "a preserve and breeding ground for native birds", but it was not until 1969 that the entire Farallon group was protected in the present Farallon Island National Wildlife Refuge. Today the protected islands, which lie in the nutrient rich waters of the California Current, are under the watchful eyes of the Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory and boast a bird population of some 200,000 sea birds, including the tufted puffin shown left, and 2,100 marine mammals, including the northern elephant seal which was absent from the area for 150 years.

In this new exhibit at the Academy, wildlife photographer and writer, Tupper Ansel Blake, shares the beauty and mystery of the Farallones with more than forty color photos taken over a two year period. Tupper conducted a photographic survey of the wildlife of the area for the Wilderness Society and the results offer us all a chance to visit the Farallon Islands and in Blake's own words, "... experience nature at her best — wildlife, land and ocean acting out their roles in perfect restored harmony."

The Farallon Islands open in mid-October in Hohfeld Gallery I located just outside the Morrison Auditorium.

The week of October 15 through 21 has been proclaimed "San Francisco Conservatory of Music Week" and the Academy is pleased to announce that the first performance of this week-long celebration will take place in the Wattis Hall of Man on Sunday, October 15, beginning at noon. A string ensemble from the Conservatory will play selections by Mozart and others and the program should last about one hour. This free concert is part of the Academy's Living Arts Program.

Morrison Planetarium

Stardust

Five billion years ago, in the outskirts of our Milky Way galaxy, a huge whirling cloud of cosmic gas and dust came together to form our star systems with its sun, planets and moons. This cloud of creation left behind many smaller objects, concentrations of stardust that permeate our solar system . . . gossamer comets, tiny meteors, large meteoroids and gigantic asteroids that may ultimately help to shape our future uses of outer space.

The title of the new daily sky show is **Stardust** and it can be seen any day at the following times:

Monday through Friday: 2:00 pm

Wednesday and Thursday: 2:00 & 7:30 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday: 12:30, 2:00 & 3:30

Don't forget weekend presentations of **Exploring the Skies of the Season** an overview of the current night sky over San Francisco shown each Saturday and Sunday at 11:00 a.m. Use your planetarium passes and bring a guest to either of these planetarium attractions.

Laserium

The Best of Laserium, featuring the most popular musical selections from **Laserium I and II** plus several all new rock accompaniments can be seen in the Morrison Planetarium on weekends at the following times:

Friday: 7:30, 9:00 and 10:30

Saturday: 5:00, 7:30, 9:00 and 10:30

Sunday: 5:00, 7:30 and 9:00

Tickets are available through all BASS outlets and remaining tickets go on sale at the planetarium box-office one-half hour before show time. Admission price is \$3.25 each. Members are reminded that this is **not** a regular planetarium show **nor** are your planetarium passes usable for this attraction. Call 752-4264 for more information on **The Best of Laserium**.

Inside the Academy



The rather non-melodic scientific description of "feldspar crystals in diabase" is a genuine prize to any rockhound in the know. This beautiful and rare phenomenon of nature is more accurately described by its common name of "Chrysanthemum stone", a combination of pinkish-white mineral embedded in steel grey volcanic rock, and bearing an amazing resemblance to the majestic flower for which it is named. The only source for Chrysanthemum stone is on Neodani Mountain in the Gifu Prefecture in central Japan. One must make a 2½ mile climb up a steep mountain trail for a specimen and then carry it down by hand since no beast of burden can be trusted on the precipitous path.

The Academy was the grateful recipient of two specimens of Chrysanthemum stone last month, one in its natural state and one polished to a lustrous sheen. They are part of a large donation from Mr. Rikuro Ito of Japan, President of the International Rock Appreciation Club, a world-wide organization which boasts 80,000 members. Mr. Ito and his wife were in the United States to attend the National Gem and Mineral Show in Pleasanton in late July. The specimens were accepted by Academy Director, Dr. George E. Lindsay, during an informal ceremony at the museum (photo above). The new additions are on display in a special case in Cowell Hall.

Education and Travel Notes

Basic Techniques in Nature Drawing: Emphasis on Color

October 5-December 14

Ten Thursdays

(no classes on Thanksgiving)
7-10 p.m.

This course is designed for students with little or no experience in drawing. The objective is to develop within the student a sensitivity to form and contour in the observed natural world with special emphasis on the discipline of color and draftsmanship. The course will be taught by Grant Schar, Art instructor at the City College of San Francisco.

\$50 for members, \$60 for non-members, plus materials.

Museum Taxidermy

October 11-December 6

(No class October 25)

Eight Wednesdays
7-10 p.m.

The Academy's taxidermist, Fred Funk, will conduct a series of eight lecture demonstrations on the little known art of taxidermy — the fascinating process of skinning, preserving and mounting vertebrate animals to give them a lifelike appearance. This popular Academy offering will provide the student with a well-rounded knowledge of the methods of collection, preparation and installation of animal and plant specimens. Limited to 25 students.

\$45 for members, \$55 for non-members.

Gems and Ornamental Stones

October 4-November 15

(No class October 25)

Six Wednesdays
7:30-9:30 p.m.

This six-week survey course will be an introduction to many of the precious and ornamental stones that have fascinated men for thousands of years. The origins and physical properties of precious and semi-precious stones will be studied, using specimens from the Academy's collections. Historic uses of ornamental, talismanic and medicinal stones will be discussed, as will famous or noteworthy localities. Some very basic identification techniques will be dem-

onstrated and students will be introduced to many different kinds of stones through simple planned laboratory exercises. No previous mineralogical experience is required. This will not be a course in gemstone identification, but rather an opportunity to see a variety of stones and learn about what makes them special. The course will be taught by J. DeMouthe Smith, Mineralogist of the Academy's Geology Department. Limited to 20 students.

\$40 for members, \$50 for non-members.

Exploring the Universe

October 10-December 12

Ten Tuesdays

7-9 p.m.

In this non-mathematical, introductory course in astronomy we will survey our solar system and beyond. Pulsars, black holes, galaxies, quasars, UFO's and the search for extraterrestrial life are included in our explorations.

Several sessions will be held in the Morrison Planetarium Sky Theater and there will be one field trip to a local observatory. This class is taught by the Director of the Morrison Planetarium, Dr. Lee Simon.

\$30 for individuals; \$45 for families (non-members add \$10)

Below Pacific Tides

November 1-December 20

Wednesdays

7:30-9:30 p.m.

Designed for divers, but of interest to anyone who enjoys marine biology, this class, taught by our Invertebrate Zoology staff, will unravel the mysteries of the deep, discussing the biology and inter-relationships of the flora and fauna beyond the tidal zone of the Pacific Ocean. The lectures will be accompanied by photographic slides and there will be one intertidal field trip on Sunday, November 12.

\$35 for members, \$45 for non-members

Call or write the Education Office, California Academy of Sciences, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco 94118 for more information. Telephone: 221-4214, Ext. 211.

Pinnacles

October 14

A repeat of last year's very popular trip to the Pinnacles is once again offered to Academy members under the leadership of geologist Charles Chesterman. The Pinnacles, located 34 miles south of Hollister, offers good hiking trails, birds, flora and interesting caves and rock formations. Spaces are limited for this one-day excursion which costs \$25 each. Call the Academy's Travel Office for more information at 221-5100, Ext. 211.

Point Reyes

Saturday, October 21

8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The fascinating Point Reyes Peninsula — that "island in time" — is separated from the mainland coast range by the famous San Andreas fault. On this one-day bus trip we will look at different kinds of rocks and geology in these two adjacent areas, and we will walk the "Earthquake Trail" along the great fault that divides them. This trip will be under the leadership of Dr. Peter Rodda, Chairman of the Academy's Geology Department. Bring your own lunch for our noontime stop at the Point Reyes National Seashore Headquarters. Refreshments will be provided. Advance reservations are required. \$10, members only.

Baja California Overland

November 4-12

The Academy is pleased to once again offer its members the popular nine-day overland trip down the full length of the Baja California Peninsula, one of the great scenic natural areas of the world. Our group will fly from San Francisco to San Diego, and there board a chartered deluxe motorcoach which will provide transportation to Cabo San Lucas. Hotels, even in the most remote locations, will be first-class and deluxe. Meals are not included. The return on the ninth day will be by air from San Jose del Cabo to San Francisco.

The trip, which is limited to 32 people will again be under the guidance of botanist and

Academy Fellow, Annetta Carter, who is an expert on this fascinating area.

Cost, including airfare, is \$455 per person, double occupancy; \$543 for single rooms. For further information contact the Academy's Travel Office at 221-4214, Ext. 211.

Geology of the South Bay Area

Saturday, November 4, 1978

Join us on our traveling short course in geology of the South Bay Area. Starting from the Academy at 8:00 a.m. we will ride a chartered bus on a loop trip, observing and discussing the local geological and historical sites. Your guide will be J. DeMouthe Smith, an Associate of the Academy's Geology Department. Bring your lunch. We expect to return to the Academy by 5:00 p.m. Reservations are by mail through the Academy Travel Office.

\$20 for members, \$30 for non-members

Lindblad Antarctic Cruising Expedition

November 29-December 29, 1978

Space is still available for this rare over-Christmas cruise to Antarctica aboard the luxurious Lindblad Explorer. The group will fly from San Francisco on November 29 for a three-day discovery adventure in and around Lima, Peru. On December 3 you will board the Lindblad Explorer at Puerto Montt, Chile with the first stop at Puerto Natales. The cruise will continue through the Fuegian archipelago, followed by four days visiting the wonderful wildlife islands in the Falkland archipelago. In Antarctica the ship is expected to visit Hope Bay, King George Island, Deception Island, Port Lockroy, Anvers Islands and Paradise Bay. The cruise will terminate at Ushuaia, Argentina and the group will return to San Francisco by air. The trip, including all land arrangements and excursions is priced from \$4,680 to \$5,640, twin room, with air fare extra. For further information, call the Academy Travel Office at 221-4214, Ext. 211.

Pacific Islands & Lagoons of Baja California

February 4-12, 1979.

This is the Academy's annual nine-day natural history expedition to the west coast of Baja California. Using the vessel 'Qualifier 105', we will visit the San Benitos,

New Members of the Academy

Cedros and San Martin Islands and San Ignacio Lagoon. Traveling by night and exploring on foot and from skiffs during the day, participants will study the natural history of this unique region with special emphasis on marine mammals, especially the gray whale. The trip, which will be led by Annetta Carter and Dr. Ray Gilmore, is limited to 30 people and will cost \$700, from San Diego. For information, call Nature Expeditions International, (415) 328-6572.

Continued from September

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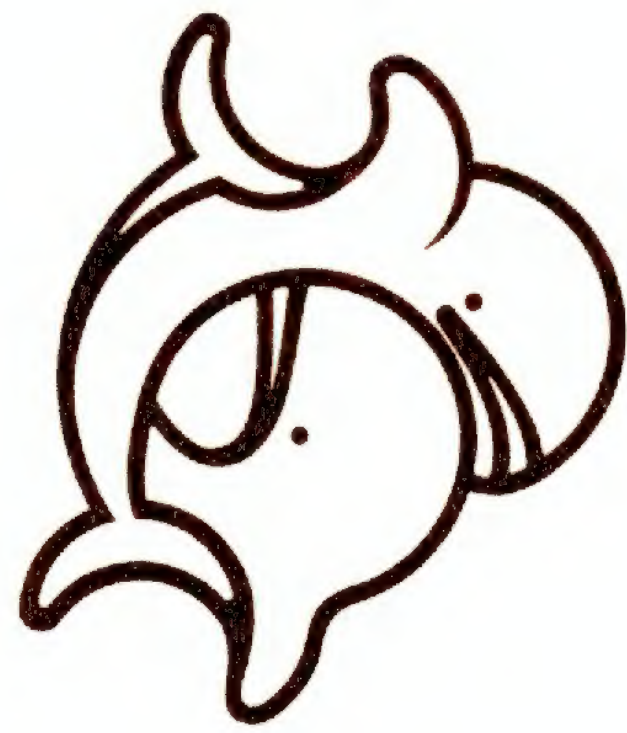
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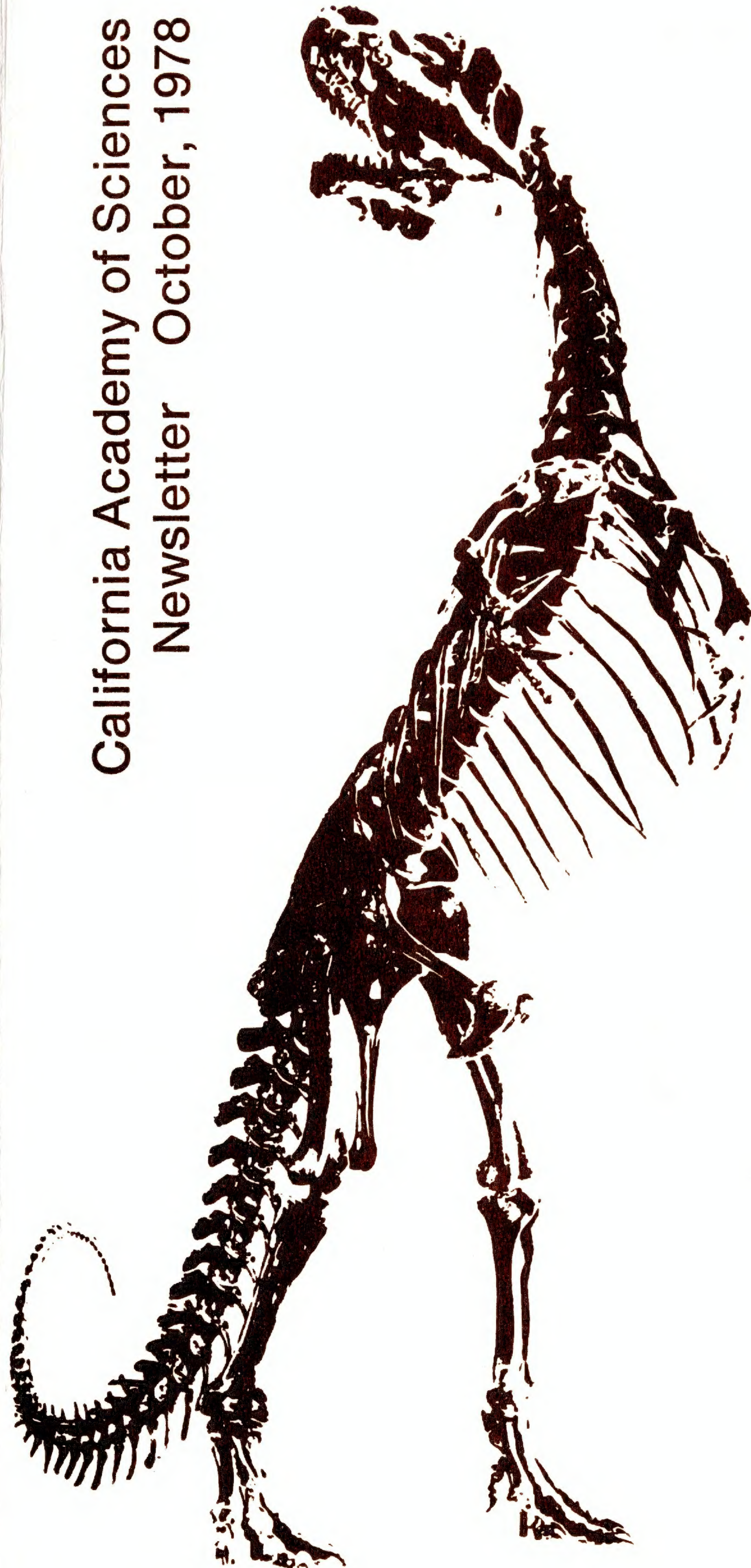
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California Academy of Sciences
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OCT, 1978

California Academy of Sciences Newsletter October, 1978



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U.S. Postage Paid
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San Francisco, California

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